

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible tap apparatus member comprising:
a shaft having a flexible upper shaft portion and a flexible lower shaft portion, said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially smooth surface;
wherein said flexible tap apparatus member is arranged and configured ~~to engage~~ such that after insertion into a living body, said upper shaft portion is anchored in the tissue.
2. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising:
a tip terminating said upper shaft portion.
3. (Currently Amended) The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising:
a guide pin for being removably disposed in the tissue to align said flexible tap apparatus member; and
a passage disposed axially into said shaft, through which the guide pin is removably engaged.
4. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 3, wherein said passage extends a portion of the length of the shaft.
5. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 3, further comprising:
a lateral passage extending laterally from said passage disposed axially into said shaft.
6. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising
a handle arranged and configured to releasably receive said lower shaft portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A flexible tap apparatus system comprising:
a first flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
a shaft having a flexible upper shaft portion and a flexible lower shaft portion,
said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion
having a substantially smooth surface;
wherein said shaft of said first flexible tap apparatus member comprises a first set
of dimensions; and
a second flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
a shaft having a flexible upper shaft portion and a flexible lower shaft portion,
said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion
having a substantially smooth surface;
wherein said shaft of said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises a
second set of dimensions;
wherein said first set of dimensions differs from said second set of dimensions, and
wherein at least one of said flexible tap apparatus members is arranged and configured such that
after insertion into a living body, said upper shaft portion of said flexible tap apparatus member
is anchored in the tissue.
8. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, further comprising:
a handle arranged and configured to interchangeably receive said first flexible tap
apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member.
9. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, wherein at least one of said
first flexible tap apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises:
a passage disposed axially into said shaft.
10. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 9, wherein said passage
disposed axially in said shaft extends a portion of the length of said shaft.

11. (Original) The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first flexible tap apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises:

a passage disposed axially into said shaft; and

a lateral passage disposed in said shaft extending from said passage disposed axially in said shaft.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a passage in tissue comprising:
providing a flexible tap apparatus system comprising:

a first flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:

a shaft having a flexible upper shaft portion and a flexible lower shaft portion, said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially smooth surface;

wherein said shaft of said first flexible tap apparatus member comprises a first set of dimensions; and

a second flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:

a shaft having a flexible upper shaft portion and a flexible lower shaft portion, said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially smooth surface;

wherein said shaft of said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises a second set of dimensions;

wherein said first set of dimensions differs from said second set of dimensions;

engaging said first flexible tap apparatus member into the tissue;

disengaging said first flexible tap apparatus member from the tissue; and

engaging said second flexible tap apparatus member into the tissue so that said second flexible tap apparatus member is arranged and configured such that after insertion into a living body, said upper shaft portion of said flexible tap apparatus member is anchored in the tissue.

13. (Original) A method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
disposing a guide pin into the tissue;
engaging said first flexible tap apparatus member with said guide pin;
boring a passage in the tissue with said first flexible tap apparatus member;
removing said first flexible tap apparatus member;
engaging said second flexible tap apparatus member with said guide pin; and
boring into said passage in the tissue with said second flexible tap apparatus member.